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Inside Information

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U.S. SERIAL RECORDS

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FIRST ELECTRONIC MAIL USERS SEMINAR HELD

The first national (and international) seminar of government and industry users of Dialcom's electronic mail system was held in Alexandria, Va., last week.

Major portion of the day-long seminar was discussion of major improvements to be implemented in the electronic mail system--called MAIL II--to be inaugurated by Dialcom for all mail users by early 1983.

MAIL II will incorporate the latest advances in electronic mail technology and suggestions for improvement made by mail users over the past two or three years.

It will include more than 200 new features, not now available on Dialcom's electronic mail--recognized as the most advanced system by large industry users.

Dialcom officials also announced the firm's venture into "electronic publishing," with the first user being USDA. This is a specific reference to the new USDA electronic news service, started last month by USDA's News Center.

The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service and Gannett News Service are planning to begin providing electronic news services through Dialcom's system. Others expected to follow shortly are McGraw-Hill and Newsnet.

Commerce Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department and the Food & Drug Administration of the Health & Human Services Department are most interested in following USDA's lead in offering electronic news releases.

Later this month, United Press International and Dialcom will announce a new scanning service, called "Newstrack."

This service will scan the full UPI national and international news files 24 hours a day for subjects of special interest to the user. The stories will always be ready when desired, within minutes as they're released by UPI.

"Newstrack" will be touted as combining the most sophisticated package of electronic office services available anywhere with the full universe of news from UPI, including their special Washington Wire, long known for its Daybooks, Senate and House schedules, future files and advisories to correspondents.

Another major development by Dialcom is its new "Infogate" which will allow users to access other electronic mail and data systems, such as the Source, Lockheed's Dialog, Dow Jones News Service, New York Times, Justice Department's Juris and many others, including the Comet system used by some USDA agencies.

Dialcom also announced that in addition to serving clients in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, it is expanding into Hong Kong, Ireland and Switzerland in the next few weeks, and into 12 to 15 other nations (many in the Far East) by the end of the year.

ELECTRONIC AGRICULTURAL NEWS EXPANDING

In addition to the AGNET and Dialcom USDA news services, electronic dissemination of agricultural information is expanding through other systems.

The Minneapolis STAR-TRIBUNE's electronic news service is off and running, according to Bob Elkin. This experimental service is reaching about 200 North Dakota and Minnesota farmers in the Fargo, N.Dak., area who have home computers.

Radio Station KFYZ, Bismarck, N.Dak., is planning to access USDA news from the Dialcom system.

USDA's News Center plans to offer the popular weekly "Farm Paper Letter" over the USDA electronic news service within a few weeks. Format of the printed FPL has already been changed to accommodate the new electronic version.

Another sign of the times comes from Memphis, Tenn., where Lloyd Dinkins has launched the "Computer Farming Newsletter" to serve as a forum for farmers interested in computer use on their farms.

When Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block traveled to Mexico recently, his press aide John Ochs carried a portable terminal so that they could communicate electronically with home base and the USDA News Center.

(NOTE: To help USDA and state agricultural communicators keep up with those who now are on the Dialcom electronic mail system, this issue of INSIDE INFORMATION carries the latest listing of electronic mail boxes on the system. In addition to the listing of those information offices which are on the system, the listing includes the names of land-grant university Extension Service offices which are on the system. Mailbox numbers are not included at the request of the Extension Service.)

KANSAS STATE UNIV. NEEDS GRAPHIC ARTIST

A position is open for a specialist in graphic arts at Kansas State University's Department of Extension Information.

The incumbent will work with editors and other faculty in designing, illustrating and producing art for educational materials including brochures, publications, newsletters, news releases and audiovisual presentations.

A bachelor's degree in art, journalism or related field is required. The incumbent must demonstrate successful work experience in graphic design or illustration, and must have skills in illustration, layout and design.

Some work experience in photography and communications training would be helpful.

Applicants should send a letter, resume, academic transcripts, portfolio of work and three letters of reference, by March 15, 1982, to: Gary L. Vacin, Extension Editor, 129 Umberger Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLAUDED

"No single statute has ever given the citizens of a democracy a better window on their government" as has the federal Freedom of Information Act.

So said Katherine Graham of the WASHINGTON POST at the recent national convention of the Society of Professional Journalists in Washington, D.C.

INSIDE INFORMATION is published for distribution to public affairs and information staff members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its agencies, State Departments of Agriculture and Land-Grant Universities. Any items, comments and inquiries should be addressed to Stan W. Prochaska, Assistant Public Affairs Director, Room 407-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or to AGR002 on the Dialcom INTERCOM system, or call (202) 447-7454.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS ON DIALCOM ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM

Washington, D.C.

USDA Public Affairs Ass't Dir.	Stan Prochaska	AGR002
USDA News Center	Ray Schleeter	AGR003
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service	Lew Brodsky	AGR005
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service	Herb Gantz	AGR008
USDA Forest Service	Diane O'Connor	AGR009
USDA Food & Nutrition Service	Dave Warner	AGR010
USDA Secretary's Office	John Ochs/D. Lane	AGR030
USDA AGR System Control	Nancy Bevis	AGR001
USDA Cooperative State Research Service	Mason Miller	AGS3003
USDA Extension Service	Ovid Bay	AGS091
USDA National Agricultural Library	Eugene Farkas	AGS3052
USDA Science & Education Director	Alice Skelsey	AGS3200
USDA AGS System Control	Jerry Paulsen	AGS001
ACE (Agric. Communicators in Education)	Hal Taylor	AGZ010
DIALCOM Support (for users)	Jane Weinstein	*JANEW
DIALCOM Marketing (for agriculture)	Ken Norris	*KENN

Alabama

Auburn University Ext. Service (Auburn)	John Parrott	AGS101
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Alaska

Univ. of Alaska Ext. Service (Fairbanks)		
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Arizona

Univ. of Arizona Ext. Service (Tucson)		
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Arkansas

Univ. of Arkansas Ext. Service (Little Rock)		
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California

USDA (AMS-APHIS) Reg. Inf. Office (San Francisco)	Ben Darling	AGR022
Univ. of California Ext. Service (Berkeley)	Karen Berke	AGS305

Colorado

Colorado State Univ. Ext. Service (Fort Collins)		
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Connecticut

Univ. of Connecticut Ext. Service (Storrs)		
--	--	--

Delaware

Univ. of Delaware Ext. Service (Newark)		
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Florida

Florida Dept. of Agriculture (Tallahassee)	Charles Allen	GFL001
Univ. of Florida Ext. Service (Gainesville)		

Georgia

USDA (AMS-APHI) Reg. Inf. Office (Atlanta)	Connie Crunkleton	AGR011
Univ. of Georgia Ext. Service (Athens)		

Hawaii

Univ. of Hawaii Ext. Service (Honolulu)		
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Illinois

USDA (AMS-APHIS) Reg. Inf. Office (Chicago)	Herb Jackson	AGR014
Univ. of Illinois Ext. Service (Urbana)		

Indiana

Purdue University (Lafayette)	Eldon Fredericks	AGS802
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Iowa

Iowa State Univ. Ext. Service (Ames)		
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Kansas

Kansas State Univ. Ext. Service (Manhattan)	Gary Vacin	AGS900*
	*temporary number	

Louisiana

Louisiana State Univ. Ext. Service (Baton Rouge)		
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Maine

Univ. of Maine Ext. Service (Orono)

Massachusetts

Univ. of Massachusetts Ext. Service (Amherst)

Michigan

Michigan State University (East Lansing)

Bob Neumann

AGS1227

Minnesota

Univ. of Minnesota Ext. Service (St. Paul)

Gail McClure

AGS2652

STAR-TRIBUNE Farm News Service (Minneapolis)

Bob Elkin

AGZ020

Mississippi

Miss. State Univ. Ext. Service (Mississippi State)

Missouri

Univ. of Missouri Ext. Service (Columbia)

Dick Lee

AGS1355

Nebraska

Univ. of Nebraska Ext. Service (Lincoln)

New Hampshire

Univ. of New Hampshire Ext. Service (Durham)

New Jersey

Rutgers State Univ. Ext. Service (New Brunswick) Ext. Info.

AGS1628

New Mexico

New Mexico State University (Las Cruces)

Norman Newcomer

AGS1652

New York

USDA (AMS-APHIS) Reg. Inf. Office (New York)

Werner Hietsch

AGR019

Cornell University Ext. Service (Ithaca)

North Carolina

N. Carolina State Univ. Ext. Service (Raleigh)

N. Carolina A&T State Univ. Ext. Svc.(Greensboro)Ext. Comm.

AGS1779

North Dakota

N. Dakota State University (Fargo)

Chuck Humphrey

AGS1801

Ohio

Ohio State Univ. Ext. Service (Columbus)

Oregon

Oregon State Univ. Ext. Service (Corvallis)

Gwil Evans

AGS1951

Pennsylvania

Penn. State University (University Park)

Glen Goss

AGS2025

South Carolina

Clemson University Ext. Service (Clemson)

South Dakota

S. Dakota State Univ. Ext. Service (Brookings)

Tennessee

Univ. of Tennessee Ext. Service (Knoxville)

Texas

USDA (AMS-APHIS) Reg. Inf. Office (Dallas)

Harold Bryson

AGR017

Texas Department of Agriculture (Austin)

(in operation soon)

Texas A&M University (College Station)

Jim Hunt

AGS2260

Utah

Utah State University (Logan)

Art Higbee

AGS2331

Vermont

Univ. of Vermont Ext. Service (Burlington)

Virginia

Virginia Tech (Blacksburg)

Communications

AGS2402

Washington

Washington State Univ. Ext. Service (Pullman)

West Virginia

West Virginia Univ. Ext. Service (Morgantown)

Wisconsin

Univ. of Wisconsin Ext. Service (Madison)

Wyoming

Univ. of Wyoming Ext. Service (Laramie)